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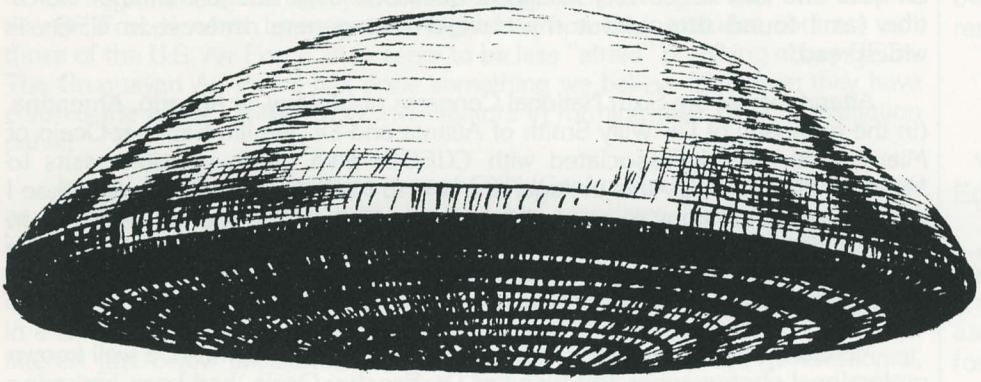

Object as seen by
Holly Travis

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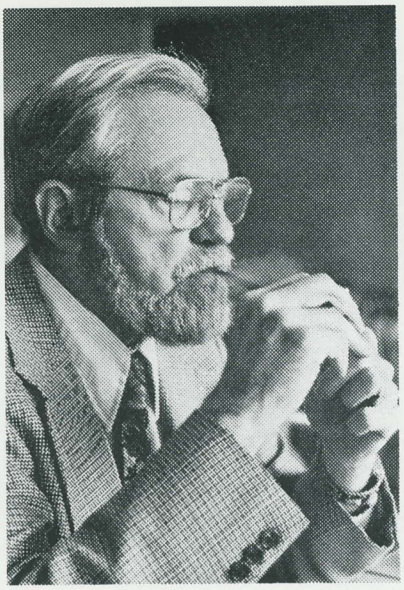
EDITORIAL



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A Glimpse at the International UFO Scene

Most of the information we publish about the UFO phenomenon in other countries comes through correspondence. Recently, however, invitations to visit South Korea, Argentina, Uruguay, Italy, and Sweden gave me the opportunity of learning more directly of the state of UFO activity in these countries (shortly Brazil and the U.K. will be added). Aware that such glimpses into other countries must necessarily be incomplete and even biased owing to the limitations of time, here they are, nonetheless, and with apologies for their inevitable shortcomings.

First, several very active days in Seoul, South Korea, were made possible through the invitation of Professor K. C. Chou of the Kyung Hee university, an astronomer who has spent many years in the United States at various observatories. I learned that while interest in UFOs is generally high, standardization and coordination of investigative efforts seems to be the main problem there (as it is elsewhere, I might add!). There is, however, much enthusiasm and optimism. Dr. Chou has suggested the organization of an "All Pacific UFO Network" and has also applied for admission of Korea to PICUR (Provisional International Committee for UFO Research) which holds its next meeting in London in August, 1983. Dr. Chou is a very energetic and enthusiastic person, and is very well known in influential Korean circles; under his guidance an "All Pacific UFO Network" may well become a reality.

A highlight of the visit to Seoul was an impromptu invitation to address some 300 science students at the University of Seoul, Korea's top university. Despite language difficulties, the students listened most attentively for well over an hour and later asked very intelligent questions. This was just another indication (as I found throughout my travels) that general interest in UFOs is widespread.

Attendance at the Sixth National Congress of Ufology, in Rosario, Argentina, (in the company of Dr. Willy Smith of Atlanta and Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo of Miami, both closely associated with CUFOS) also made possible visits to Mendoza and Buenos Aires in Argentina and to Montevideo in Uruguay. These I am somewhat unhappy to say, eclipsed in significance for me the meetings in Rosario, although these were very well organized and efficiently presented. The papers presented there were a "mixed bag" (a synopsis prepared by Ruth Gerstel of Buenos Aires is scheduled for the next issue).

Mendoza provided a measure of adventure: Sr. Atilio Spinello, a well known professional photographer and friend of Dr. Sanchez-Ocejo, had been harboring a "contactee" in his mountain retreat well outside Mendoza in whom the Argentine government had expressed a definite interest. It seems that contactee Ricardo had been brash enough to predict the Falkland Island contretemps and its outcome several weeks before it actually happened! When we three Americans came to interview Ricardo we found that the Argentine government had quite openly planted a security agent in our midst, who ate with us and attended all our interviews! Quite naturally the government was interested in what other matters of political interest the contactee might reveal. It is no military secret that he revealed nothing further to us under those circumstances. He promised, however, further information on ufological matters; to date this has not been forthcoming.

Perhaps in Latin America extremes of opinion and beliefs are even greater than we find in other countries. On a previous visit to Mendoza (1981) I had been invited by a local mystic-contactee to witness a UFO event she said would occur

that night in a desolate mountain area. Not to leave any stone unturned, I accepted (with misgivings), and accompanied by Dr. Sanchez-Ocejo we arrived, after a bumpy journey, at the rendezvous. When, after much ceremony, she proclaimed the star Alpha Centauri (which had just risen) to be the promised UFO, I severely denounced her. Imagine my surprise on this visit to learn that she had circulated a story that it had not been I, but my clone, that had been her "guest" that night!

At the other extreme we find Guillermo Roncoroni who is with IBM, Buenos Aires, Roberto Banchs, and their Buenos Aires associates. They have devised a most excellent UFO coding system, and their catalogue of 275 Argentine Close Encounters (from 1946 to 1982) with the statistical analysis of its contents is an exemplary effort. (A description of this system, which ranks with UFOCAT and Project URD is scheduled for a forthcoming issue).

This may be an appropriate moment to request our reader opinion regarding a matter of content policy. While the REPORTER was founded to present well-investigated UFO events, there have been so many of these that there has been little space for presenting material about the UFO phenomenon itself: perspectives, review articles, questions and letters from readers, summaries, philosophical matters, theories, book reviews, profiles, conference summaries, etc. QUESTION: Should some UFO case documentation be sacrificed in favor of some of this other material? Please don't suggest more pages; this is not financially feasible until our circulation increases significantly. Let us hear from you about this.

Dr. Willy Smith, who was born in Montevideo, lived there for many years and is fully bilingual, was of inestimable help to me both there and in Argentina, making possible meetings and communication with investigators and public officials that otherwise could not have taken place. It was through his efforts that CUFOS Buenos Aires, CUFOS Uruguay, and CUFOS Paraguay were established at this time.

In Argentina and Uruguay formal meetings were arranged with their respective Air Forces, which gave some insight into how their attitudes contrast with those of the U.S. Air Force: they seem to be less "afraid" of talking about UFOs. The Uruguayan Air Force has done something we believe is unique: they have enlisted the aid of civilian UFO investigators in forming their UFO investigation panel!

In Italy, Roberto Pinotti, president of CUN (Centro Ufologico Nazionale), was, as usual, a most attentive host. He and his associates plied me with more information than could be easily assimilated on the spot. Among other things, he has furnished CUFOS with a CE-III case on which investigation has recently been completed. Although five years old, it deserves full attention and will be presented in a forthcoming issue. In Italy, one senses a sort of ferment of UFO activity and interest just below the surface, the surface being jointly civilian, governmental, and military; a country to watch, ufologically speaking!

Sweden, on the other hand, presents an interesting contrast. The organization of ufologists and, with few exceptions, their mutual cooperation, is quiet and systematic. On invitation from UFO-Sweden, I was able to spend several days in Gothenburg, as a guest of Kristian Martinsson. The study of UFOs in Sweden is not centralized; UFO-Sweden can be thought as an "umbrella" organization whose officers and facilities are spread out over a good part of Sweden.

UFO activity in Sweden recently has been at low ebb, which does not appear to be the case in Norway where intense, continuing, but localized, UFO activity has been reported. CUFOS has "commissioned" Mr. Martinsson to conduct investigations in Norway in cooperation with local investigators. The activity consists largely of yellow-orange balls which have been bright enough to photograph. In this connection, we refer you to Mr. Sigismund's article in this issue. □

Announce 1983 London Conference Tour Plans

Plans previously announced for a tour party headed by Dr. Hynek traveling to England this coming August have been changed.

There will be no organized travel party. Due to the many points of origin of those wishing to make the trip, a consolidated flight party has become impractical. Instead, those traveling to the Third London International UFO Congress to be held August 26-29, 1983 are asked to make their own travel arrangements and meet informally at the Conference.

Dr. and Mimi Hynek will travel from O'Hare in Chicago on August 19th to London and will be returning on September 4th. Upon arriving in London, they will travel direct to Edinburgh for several days, then back to High Wickam the day before the Conference begins.

The Hyneks will be delighted to have any traveling companions, but everyone will be expected to make their own reservations and other travel arrangements for all parts of the trip. □

LETTERS

Editor:

I would like to say how much I like both the ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER and the IUR. Several months ago, IUR asked for comments on the case formats. I very strongly favor the extended account presentation as it now exists. I have always thought that the "warts-and-all" approach to UFO investigation was the best in giving a real flavor of the work that should always precede any documenting and conclusions.

(Additional comments will appear in the next ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER).

Joseph Nyman
Medfield, Massachusetts

Four Huge Orange Discs and the

by Richard Sigismond

Those who would argue "The Case For The UFO" are not nearly so much at a disadvantage as the present lack of "hard evidence" might at first glance indicate. Obviously, in the absence of the latter, those who investigate this elusive subject must perforce rely heavily upon the testimony of witnesses. This is, we hope, a temporary situation; the signs are positive that if "hard cash" were available for a truly professional approach to this subject, "hard evidence" would quickly emerge.

The dependence upon human testimony is not unique to UFO research and should stigmatize neither the investigator nor the witness to UFO phenomena. The need to gather human testimony and to determine its credibility is common to many disciplines and professions. Sociology, psychology, psychiatry, intelligence gathering, history, administration of government and, of course, much of our entire system of jurisprudence involve the evaluation of human testimony. Decisions of great consequence are made on the basis of human testimony. The silent gallows, if nothing else, dramatically endorses this fact. Yet the absence of hard evidence has often been seized upon by militant critics as conclusive proof that the UFO subject is not worthy of scientific inquiry.

This argument, I submit, is not scientifically defensible. The accumulated data, in the form of thousands of reports from all over the world suggest something quite contrary. They allow us at this juncture to look at this information from the perspective of the social sciences; doing so strongly suggests that there is an objective reality to the phenomenon. These thousands of reports, this world-wide body of human testimony, constitute a very formidable case for the UFO, arguing very convincingly that the UFO phenomenon is neither the product of misidentification of known phenomena nor is it generated by some culturally defined and created need affecting the perception of the witnesses.

The question has often been raised as to whether, even in the significantly large residue of truly unidentified and very credible UFO reports, we are facing a true physical anomaly or whether these seemingly credible accounts are merely the intriguing product of present fears, insecurities, or wish-fulfillment fantasy, unconsciously projected outward in new space-age garb. Phrased very simply, what is the probability that we are dealing with something external to the psyche of witness? (Ed. note: Perhaps one should say 'witnesses' since the majority of UFO cases involve two or more witnesses and it would appear that it is far more improbable that several witnesses, with, so to speak, different phychological makeups or 'breaking points', would experience the same event if it were internal to their psyche.)

How may we determine whether an objective physical anomaly is present and is responsible for generating the stimuli to which the witness responds, when we have so little physical evidence to go on? Certainly in such a predicament the physical sciences can scarcely aid us, but what of the social sciences?

The following cases, investigated by the writer, illustrate what we have just been discussing. Despite the wide diversity in the witnesses themselves, their accounts display overwhelming

The Author:

Richard Sigismond is a contributing editor to this publication; he is well-known to ufologists as an investigator, lecturer and writer. Basically, he is a social psychologist, with very broad interests. These include sociology, cultural anthropology, parapsychology, history, and government, but he is also founder and president of the Aquarius Mining Company in Colorado, which is now engaged in opening gold and silver mines for ore production. In addition, he is a noted gardner!

In ufology, he has lectured widely, has consulted and taken part in documentaries on this subject and, indeed, there are few aspects of this provocative field he is not involved in. What is not generally known, however, is his hidden role in the work of the Condon Committee, and the story of why he was not a member of that Committee. We have persuaded him, in the interests of history, to tell that story in a forthcoming issue. In the present article he tells us of some of his recent investigations and of some of his thoughts on ufology.

Case for the UFO

similarity. These cases adequately, if not altogether ideally, fulfill the criteria set forth in our axiom. (Ed. note: The reader may well be able to supply cases from his own investigative experience or readings. I certainly can: the orange globes of light described by the Indians of the Yakima Reservation come immediately to mind, and just recently, the Norwegian orange discs, to be described in a forthcoming issue, add further fuel to Mr. Sigismond's arguments.)

The cases we briefly review below have come to the writer's attention during the past year. They have not been culled from the body of UFO literature, carefully selected to prove a point. Rather, they have spontaneously come to his attention just during the past year, each independently of the other. While many other and more extensive sets of similar cases might easily have been put together from the literature, this set has the virtue of never having been brought together before. This presentation thus serves a dual purpose: to provide illustration for the sociological axiom and to present new and possibly quite important material.

In a sense, these particular cases represent something of an anomaly within an anomaly. The cases speak of giant orange discs, football-field sized affairs that were so large and so non-conforming to the witnesses' expectation of what a UFO "should look like" that some of the startled observers are, to use their term, "embarrassed" to speak of them.

While all these particular cases occurred within the territorial confines of the United States, they are widely separated, ranging from Maine to New Mexico to Montana. Their individual environmental settings go from a small New England town to the northern mountains of central Montana, from a major Western metropolitan center to sparsely populated, arid and isolated mesas and canyon lands of northwestern New Mexico, the home of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Tribe. Each group of witnesses, although within an overall American setting, nonetheless represents a distinct subculture. These are seen upon analysis to be widely different in terms of ideals, norms, goals, attitudes, economics, mores, taboos, and religion. All witnesses speak, however, of watching the activity of huge orange airborne discs.

If we view the large body of UFO-related testimony from the perspective of a social scientist, we find that it displays certain characteristics conforming to what we would expect if we are dealing with a phenomenon having an objective reality. There is a dictum in the social sciences which is relevant here: when one is confronted with reports of anomalous and puzzling phenomena, one should be aware that events very probably external to the psyche of the percipient are occurring whenever we find that similar reports are being given by a great number of individuals who show a wide diversity both in culture, geographical distribution, and time.

Our axiom tells us to look both at the number of reports and the range of cultural, religious, ethnic, and ideological diversity, and to observe the degree of geographical spread as well. We must also look for duration in time, we are further reminded. Then, if our data meet these stringent criteria, our axiom, derived from long term observation and analysis of human behavior, indicates that we may proceed, with a high probability of certainty, with the assumption that a common and external stimulus has invoked this multitude of similar responses.

As we apply this principle, gathering and examining even a modest fraction of the 3-1/2-decade-long roster of UFO reports, we quickly see that the number of reports measure by the thousands, and that within certain rather well-defined parameters these reports display very significant similarities. We note that the witnesses who make these reports speak to us from across the entire planet. They speak from isolated regions and urban centers, from modern industrial nations and underdeveloped countries as well; they are Catholic and they are Protestant, Moslem and Jewish, communists and capitalists, conservative and liberal college educated and illiterate, quite well-off and destitute. Their stories often read with a repetitious monotony, so similar are many of them in basic and general content. (Ed. note: What about the witnesses who do not speak to us from across the entire planet? As all serious UFO investigators are aware, the evidence is strong that many persons do not report a UFO event for fear of ridicule from their peers or because they didn't know where or how to report. How often we hear "Of course I didn't report it, I didn't want people to think I'm funny or crazy!" The sociologist

"it was as big as a football field..."

must in some way estimate and allow for these "hidden" reports which, if they had been made, would undoubtedly have greatly swelled the already large mass of UFO reports.)

Our data do indeed very adequately fulfill the described criteria. We are thus enjoined not only by scientific principle but by common logic not to set our data aside as inconsequential but to pursue investigation of the UFO phenomenon, with the knowledge that there is a high probability that UFO witnesses have in fact seen what they so persistently attest to having seen.

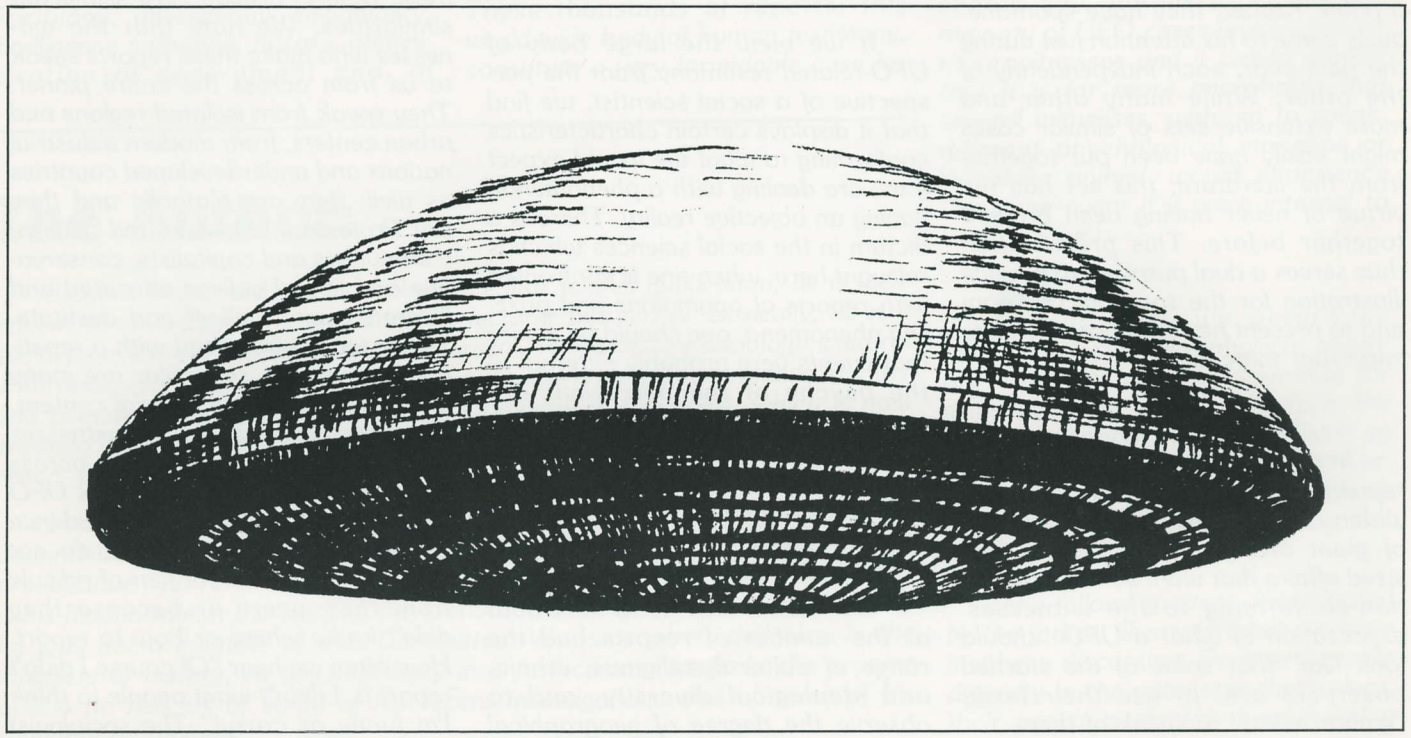
CASE #1

TYPE:	CE-I
DATE:	Mid-Sept. 1979
TIME:	4:30 A.M.
DURATION:	Several minutes
WITNESSES:	2
PLACE:	Sanford, Maine

On Sunday, Nov. 14, 1982, WBZ-TV, Boston, aired a documentary, "The UFO Experience" in which some of my work and that of J. Allen Hynek, John Schuessler, Richard Haines, Bruce Macabbee, Peter Gersten, and others was presented. A few minutes after the showing I received a long distance call from a young lady, Holly Travis, a bright and articulate high school student, living in Sanford, Maine. She had taken the initiative to secure my telephone number in Colorado because she was anxious to tell me what had been for her and her girlfriend a very surprising experience. Although the event had occurred three years before, she had been so "stifled" when she attempted to tell of it that she had resolved never to mention it again. But now she just had to communicate it to someone who would be receptive to her amazing account.

She and her friend, Debbie LaRose, who was observing the teenage custom of "sleeping over," had been awakened by Holly's little brother, sleeping nearby, talking in his sleep. Debbie opened the curtains to see what time it was without having to turn on the light. It was 4:30 A.M. A few minutes later, Debbie, glancing out the window exclaimed, "Holly, look, look!" The two girls watched what Holly later described as a "humongous" bright orange, round thing whose underside was clearly visible as it slowly passed overhead, gently spinning on its axis, at about 500 feet elevation. At this low elevation they could see the contours of the bottom of what appeared to be an extraordinarily large craft, "as big as a football field" (see drawing). It moved at about 10 to 15 m.p.h.

The girls followed it visually until it slowly descended at a slight angle behind the roof of the neighbor's



house. The size, extremely low elevation, and brilliant color made a strong impression upon the young witnesses. In a letter which Holly sent to me, she declares, "I turned to Debbie and said, 'Do you know what we just saw?' and she said, 'I know.' We were going to tell the newspaper but we were too scared and embarrassed, so we never did."

Holly's use of the word "embarrassed" is, I feel, significant. It is interesting and understandable, a response easily generated by the circumstances in which the girls found themselves. Any event which deviates far from an established norm is quite capable of making the subject self-conscious, uncomfortable and disconcerted. In this case, even the norm of what a UFO "should" look like was apparently violated by the very unusual size and color of the disc.

If there are those who may tend to discount the testimony of two teenage girls, arguing that the witnesses were young, naive, and the hour late, the following case may indeed severely weaken that tendency. The next report, coming directly from military sources, underscores the probable accuracy of Holly's and Debbie's perception. (As an aside, I might observe that teenage witnesses have consistently proven, in this social psychologist's experience, and in the experience of other social scientists as well, to be able to render about as clear and detailed a body of testimony as can be secured from any more adult age group.)

CASE #2

TYPE:	CE-I
DATE:	Nov. 8, 1975
TIME:	2:53 A.M. (start)
DURATION:	Not specified; at least ten minutes
WITNESSES:	Many military personnel
PLACE:	Judith Gap, Montana

In the autumn of 1975, during an approximate two week period, the military at highly-sensitive Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases scattered across our northern tier of states from Maine to Montana were paid a series of "visits" by unidentified and altogether elusive flying objects. The matter was kept from the public, as have other events of related nature. Under a Freedom of Information Act suit, culminating in January, 1979, censored accounts of these events were eventually released by the Defense Department. (Ed. Note: Available from the Center's UFO Information Service is a collection of Documents describing UFO/ Helicopter Overflights of U.S.A.F. Bases in 1975. Along with the 78 pages of teletype messages, memos and letters is a reprint of a newspaper article which led to further material by a U.S.A.F. historian. $11.50 ppd. from UFO Information Service, P.O. Box 1402, Evanton, IL 60204).

The UFO sighting which is of special interest to us in the context of this report, from among the number which were reported in conjunction with SAC Bases during late 1975, concerns a huge footballfield sized orange glowing disc which descended slowly over a nuclear missile silo at Judith Gap, Montana, near Great Falls. The description of the disc given by Air Force personnel is extremely similar to the testimony of the two young women in Sanford, Maine. The information concerning the Freedom of Information Act release of data in January, 1979, concerning the 1975 visits by UFOs to our nuclear bomb sites did not describe this gigantic orange disc. This information which follows came directly from military personnel who were present at the time of the event, and then only after considerable effort! It appears highly unlikely that this sort of information would have been available to two young girls in New England to stir their imaginations.

During the Spring of '82 I met with career Air Force pilot James Moulton on two occasions. He was one of the helicopter pilots at Malmstrom who, along with helicopter security police, was ordered to the missile site where the large disc was sighted. Here are the details of this remarkable event obtained directly from Officer James Moulton and from documents supplied by Malmstrom Air Force Base and the NMCC (National Military Command Center), Washington, D.C.

On Nov. 8, 1975, at 0253 hours, Malmstrom AFB received seven radar "cuts" on the height finder radar at 9,500 to 15,000 feet. Simultaneously, ground witness observed lights in the sky and sounds similar to jet fighters. However, "cross-tell" with FAA revealed no jet aircraft within 100 nautical miles. The objects were tracked, moving over Lewiston, Montana, at the very low speed of seven knots.

At 0254 hours, one minute later, NORAD scrambled two F-106 interceptors; they became airborne at 0257, just three minutes later. Personnel at Malmstrom and at several SAC sites were at the same time reporting lights and sounds assumed to be engine noise.

Missile Command Post then reported violation of security over missile silos and Security Alert Teams (SAT) were immediately alerted by launch control officers to conduct investigations. Command Post soon received radio communication from the SAT teams about the presence of a huge, football-field-sized disc (note the same size descriptions as in other cases), emitting a brilliant orange glow, hovering very low over a missile silo! The SAT teams moved in close but stopped short of moving under the intimidating disc. Career officer Moulton stated to me that the light from the disc was "brighter than sunlight", an impressive spectacle in the

"we watched the orange moons for at le

late autumn night. A general alarm was sounded from the base.

As the two F-106 interceptors approached the missile base, maintaining an altitude of 12,000 feet because of the mountains, the disc blinked out, its light now completely off. After the jets completed their circling and departed, the disc turned its intense illumination back on! (Ed. note: There have been many such instances of a UFO turning off its lights upon the approach of an aircraft. One that I personally investigated in Black Hawk, S.D. in August, 1953, a Blue Book case, involved a light cruising in the evening sky, well observed by the then existing Ground Observers Corps which snapped its lights out at the approach of a C-47, only to flash back on after the aircraft had passed. In typical fashion, Blue Book did not take the incident seriously.) SAT teams observed the circling jets and the apparent reaction of the disc to the presence of the jets. As the helicopter security police teams moved toward the missile base, the huge orange disc began to rise and, at 1,000 feet, it was again picked up on NORAD radar, disappearing from the screens at 200,000 feet.

Air Force personnel related to me that the following day the nuclear missile that had been "inspected" by the strange visitor was carefully inspected by Malmstrom personnel. Concern was expressed over the condition of the targeting information in the missile computer system. Officer Moulton soon learned that within a week, first the targeting information was replaced, and then the entire missile. When he asked why all this had been done, he was told, "We don't trust 'them'".

CASE #3

TYPE:	NL-CE-I
DATE:	March 28, 1978
TIME:	Midnight-1:30 A.M.
DURATION:	1½ hours
WITNESSES:	3 + 2
PLACE:	Denver, Colorado

In this case we move from the Montana mountains to the city of Denver; from a very high-tech military setting to a quiet residential street. More importantly, we move from a strictly regimented military subculture to the world of middle age, middle class America. The reports of the huge orange discs, however, remain basically the same.

"It was close to midnight on the 28th day of March, 1978, when my cousin and his wife dropped me off in front of my home. I won't give his name because when I stepped out of the car and saw what I thought were three UFOs, they both got out, looked up, saw what I saw, and then he ordered his wife, Jan, into the car and they hurriedly drove away leaving me alone to face the unknown as best I could!

"I immediately called a friend and neighbor who lives directly across the street, and Jim Dawson who is also a friend, living a few doors to the north of us. The three of us sat on the neighbor's lawn that very clear, cold night and watched the bright orange, larger-than-life 'moons' for at least an hour and a half. During this time there was no movement. At approximately 1:30 A.M., they broke formation, with the one on the right moving first to the right. The other two remained stationary for a few minutes, then they started to move and all three ascended into the sky in different directions. All moved slowly at first. . . .then they seemed to pick up speed and disappeared." (Ed. note: We'd like to know more about this case Just how did they disappear, and were there no changes whatever in the brightness of the objects, and, in particular, why during 1½ hours more people were not called in to witness this strange event. We shall ask Mr. Sigismond to inquire further, if this is possible.)

Thus begins Mrs. Irene Bigelow's story, as told in her written statement. During my interview with her she described the three huge orange discs as each appearing at least as wide as her double garage door. Irene Bigelow is the administrative assistant for an architecture and engineering firm; her husband is the recently retired head of the Denver City Police Canine Corps.

Mrs. Bigelow, a very perceptive woman, is both surprised and disappointed by the behavior of most of the persons who witnessed the orange discs with her that evening. Her neighbor to the north refuses to allow his name to be used in connection with this sighting, for fear it may damage his position in his church; her cousin and his wife would not even stay to watch, but scurried away in fear. Her other neighbor, Mr. Dawson, a younger person, is more courageous and, of the group, is the only other person to publicly attest to the sighting. Privately, however, the other witnesses do acknowledge the incident. Fear and the fear of ridicule appear to be potent silencers in any society.

ast an hour and a half..."

CASE #4

(Ed. note: This is not a case as such, but a very brief story of the tracking down of several related events which illustrate and support the theme of Mr. Sigismond's report. They illustrate well, too, the wide ranging a serious UFO investigator must do to track the wilely UFO.)

Driving across the arid mesas of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in northwestern New Mexico with a tribal police officer is an experience not easily forgotten. The officer's expert control of his 4-wheel drive vehicle is remarkable as mile after mile of natural unbroken terrain pass swiftly by. We spend the day searching out certain Indians who are known to have had experiences with very large orange, glowing discs, and with cylindrical or cigar-shaped silvery craft as well. At day's end we find the search has been fruitful.

What is really of significance in this short account is not the specifics of the many separate accounts but the fact that, despite the isolation of the Jicarillas from the mainstream of the dominant American culture, the UFO accounts given by this tribe deviate little from the accounts we found given by witnesses in Vermont, North Carolina, Montana, Denver, or Maine.

The Indians told of orange, glowing discs and of cigar-shaped, silvery craft

In this search through Indian country, the cohesiveness of this tribe was quickly apparent, as was the cautious suspicion with which outsiders are regarded. This was especially evident among tribal members deep within the reservation. My presence in the company of a respected and well-known tribal officer, however, slowly melted their initial coldness.

As the Jicarilla Apaches gave their accounts, which included reports of large glowing orange discs, the strong cultural differences between these people and the teenage American culture of Holly Travis and Debbie LaRose, the middle class professional world of Irene Bigelow, and the world of military career officers like James Moulton with its advanced computers and jet interceptors, remains deeply apparent.

The similarity of the Jicarillas' UFO accounts to that of the other American cultural groups is also very apparent. The same similarity of reports may be seen no matter how diverse and scattered the world sample is.

A problem in this age (unique in relation to the past but certainly not, we expect, to the future) is that, with the growth of the mass media, we are confronted daily with constant and extremely varied flows of information, frequently of indeterminate degrees of veracity.

Separating the signal from the noise has become no easy task, especially when dealing with information lines reporting anomalous phenomenon...the UFO information line being but one of many falling into this category.

In the UFO field, the information line comes through principally as human testimony...the accounts of witnesses. The problem for both critic and proponent of the subject alike has been the credibility of the accounts. In the social sciences we are given a method of determining the probable validity of testimony, a tool which allows us to identify which information line is worth pursuing. This discussion has sought to explicate that method. □

1983 UFO CONFERENCES

MUFON: July 1, 2, and 3rd the 1983 MUFON UFO Symposium will be held at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena, California. The theme is "UFOs—A Scientific Challenge." Speakers will include James M. McCampbell, Richard F. Haines, Mrs. Ann Druffel, Paul C. Cerny, Peter Jordan and J. Allen Hynek. (This corrects an earlier error of location in the ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER.) Call: (213) 557-3580.

NUFOC: May 14, a one-day 1983 Conference of NUFOC will be held in Tucson, Arizona. Speakers will include Rick Hilberg, Hal Starr, Kal K. Korff and James W. Moseley. Call: (602) 287-8770.

BUFORA: (See article on London Conference Tour, Page 3.)

PRO UFO & IF UFOCS: June 23, 24, and 25th the 1983 (4th Contactee Conference) Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation will be held at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming. Conducting the conference will be Ken McLean (307) 721-5967 and R. Leo Sprinkle (307) 766-2187.

ICIU: April 17 through 21st the 1983 International Congress on Ufology will be held in Brazilia, Brazil. The theme of the conference will be "Extraterrestrial Presence and the Future of Man—The Awakening of a New Reality." Persons mainly responsible for the conference are Prof. Irene Granchi, General Alfredo Uchao and Paulo Fernando Kronemberger. (Contact CUFOS-Evanston for address detail.) □

A Police Puzzler from Palatine

by Mark Rodeghier

The following case combines two rare circumstances: a tape recording of the witnesses' conversation during the UFO sighting and the existence of independent, physically separated witnesses. An example of the first circumstance is the St. Helen's, Oregon, case, (IUR, May-June, 1982) and of the second circumstance, "Case of the Rumbling Leviathan" (IUR, Nov-Dec 1982). This appears to be the first example of the combination of the two circumstances.

The case is further unusual in that it occurred in a large metropolitan area (which, however, included a woods), actually just 20 miles from the Center for UFO Studies, permitting an extensive investigation by Center personnel, Mark Rodeghier, assisted by Mark Chesney. Close Encounters usually happen in rural or remote areas.

TYPE:	CE-I
DATE:	Nov. 27, 1982
TIME:	5:00 P.M.
DURATION:	12½ minutes
WITNESSES:	3 (Independent)
PLACE:	Palatine, Illinois

Commander Michael McDonald, of the Palatine, Illinois, Police Department, was on routine patrol on the north side of town just before five in the morning. Just seconds before, he had passed Officer Ron Roszak, who was parked at the corner of Hicks and Baldwin Roads (A on map), and had continued on Baldwin just passed the intersection of Baldwin and Smith (position #1 on the map). Suddenly, he noticed the area around his car becoming illuminated (the location is shown on the photograph which also shows the approximate position of the Commander's car at that moment). McDonald compared the intensity of the light to that from a white phosphorous flare high in the sky or the landing lights on a low-flying aircraft. During the first few seconds, he thought the light might indeed be coming from a plane, for Palatine lies on the northwest flight path to O'Hare airport, but planes in that landing pattern must be 1,500 -1,800 feet altitude at that point. The illumination appeared to be too bright to be coming from a plane at that height.

McDonald then caught sight of the light causing the illumination, and he quickly realized he wasn't watching a conventional aircraft. In his words, "...it was a big light...it was large, intense white, with red in the light... you could see red in it...many sources of red." He quickly pulled off Baldwin Road into a parking lot and watched for 30-45 seconds as the light moved toward the south. He estimated its altitude to be 900 to 1,000 feet, and he was positive that its speed was less than that of an aircraft approaching O'Hare.

Quite understandably, McDonald was hesitant with his colleagues over the air. He radioed headquarters for some sort of verification without saying more than was necessary. Thus, at 4:56:05 (these times were automatically recorded on the tape of the conversations and the Center has a copy of this tape), he asked one officer, "Are you at the station now?" and at 4:57:05 he inquired, "Is Officer Somsel in the station?" Still hedging, he called the dispatcher at 4:57:52 to ask, "Do you have the number for O'Hare airport?" Not until the dispatcher asked him what his problem was did Commander McDonald radio, at 4:58:17, "We've got a strange thing happening on the south end of town", alerting the other officers to his sighting.

Following the light, he had driven south through the town keeping it under observation, so that by 4:58 he was already south of the police station (Palatine is not a big town). Officer Dennis Somsel was just leaving the station when he heard McDonald report a "strange thing", and he immediately got into his squad car to investigate. Officer Ron Roszak left his position upon hearing these same words and drove south on Hicks Road. both officers simultaneously sighted the light as it began to cross their line of sight. It had changed its direction from due south; Somsel reported, "It's moving off toward the southeast."

During my investigation, I returned to the specific locations on Hicks (C) on the map) with both Somsel and

Roszak to obtain pertinent elevation angles and directions. I did the same with McDonald from his location (D on the map) at the time Somsel and Roszak spotted the light. Thus, we had three individuals in three police cars at different locations, all looking at the same light at exactly the same time (5:00:38). Simple trigonometry gives us the altitude of the light and its ground location (#2 on the map). The light was then at approximately a distance of ¾ miles from Somsel and Roszak and just under a mile from McDonald, and at an altitude of 700 to 800 feet.

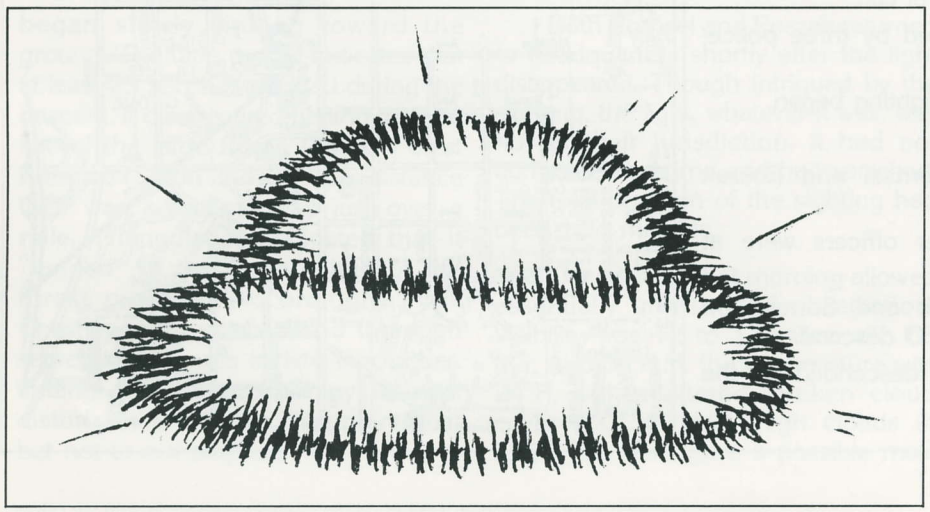
These figures agree quite well with the estimates at the time as made by all three policemen, supporting our confidence in their objective observations. It was also possible to calculate a minimum speed for the light by noting that it took just over five minutes for the light to go the 2.2 miles from position #1 (over McDonald's car) to position #2. The speed: 26 m.p.h. assuming straight-line motion, obviously too slow for a wing aircraft. Regarding its movement, one of the officers used the interestisg phrase "flat trajectory" when asked to describe its motion.

Again, let me call attention to how rarely we have such good estimates of time, location, altitude, and speed. We know certain facts about this UFO, which usually are only poorly approximated. With respect to the colors of the light, however, we have the same difficulties generally encountered. McDonald's description of a white intense light with red contrasts with Somsel's description of it as a red light which would regularly emit a white flash of light. Roszak believed that the light changed its appearance, sometimes becoming brighter, and always quite diffuse, with no sharp outline. None of the three ascribed a distinct edge to the light, and all independently said that the light was brighter than aircraft landing lights (Somsel estimated three times as bright).

McDonald reached the intersection of Cedar and Illinois streets and parked there at 5:01. He continued to observe the light as it traveled to the southeast. Roszak and Somsel requested permission from Commander McDonald to leave Palatine and go down Route 53 (an elevated, divided highway) to better observe the light. Permission granted, they went south on 53, but the light increased its speed and, even though the policemen were now doing 60 to 65 m.p.h., it soon outdistanced them. Somsel was the last to lose sight of it, at 5:04:55. The sighting, though, was not over.

At 5:06:02, McDonald, watching from his parked position, called attention to a bright light in the east. Both Roszak and Somsel discovered it to be the same light (apparently) retracing its path toward them. They braked quickly to a stop (E on the map), Roszak about ¼ of a mile ahead of Somsel. McDonald could no longer see anything, but the other two officers reported the light, now much brighter and larger, to move slightly south of their position and then to hover in one place for about a minute. They estimated its height at 200 to 500 feet, but later calculations indicate that 1,000 feet was more probable. Somsel's drawing of what he now observed appears on our cover; note the diffuse, fuzzy appearance, and its division into two sections. Somsel said it now appeared to be shining a beam of light toward the ground.

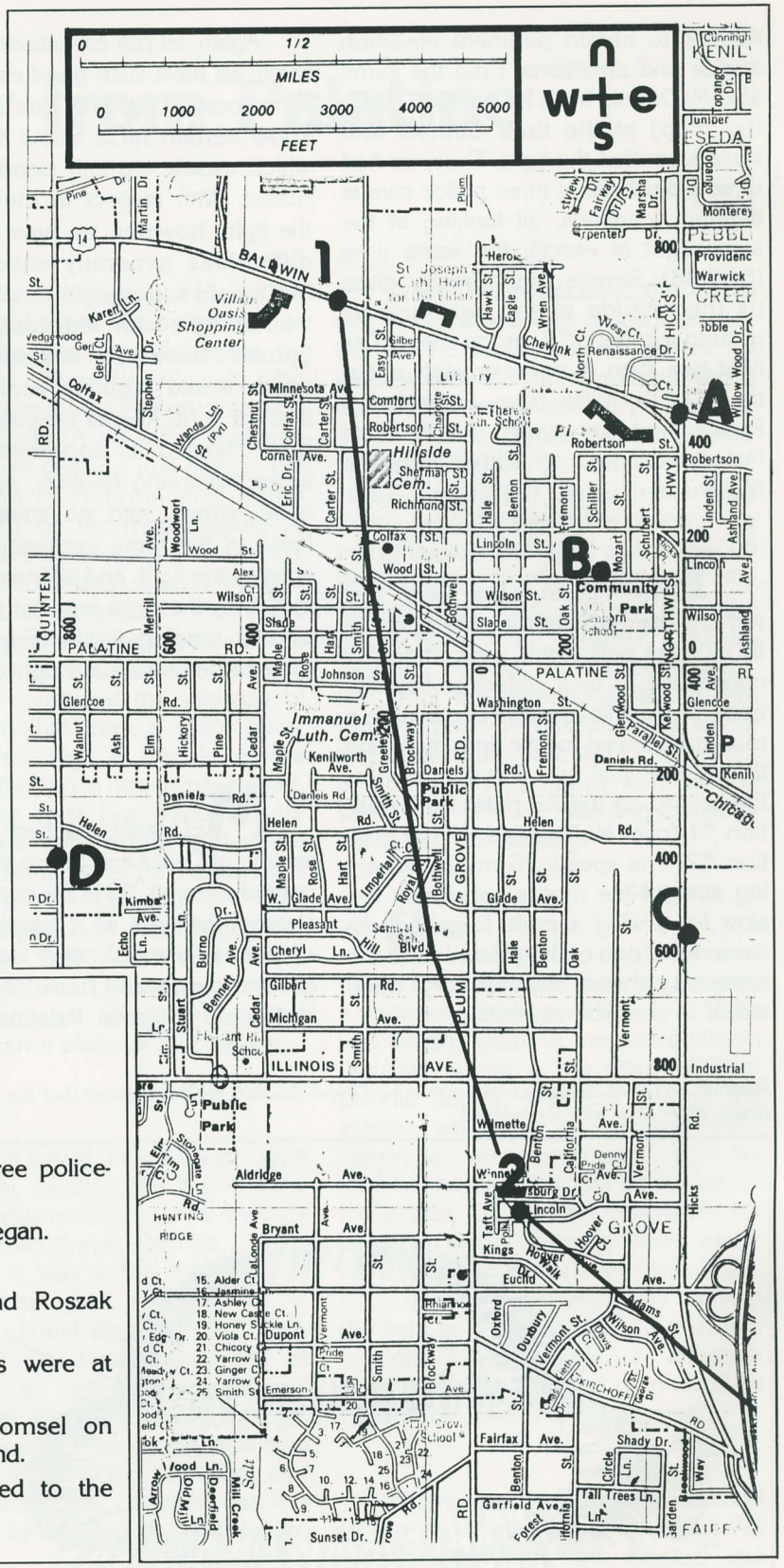
Palatine object as described and drawn by Officer Somsel. He emphasized that the edges were fuzzy rather than sharply outlined.



Somsel had the best view of the light during its second appearance, but stressed the difficulty of desribing it adequately. It's light was "bright, but not blinding...soft, like through a frosted window." At one point during the interview he said, "I still haven't done justice in explaining the intensity of that white light." His closest analogy was to put a giant flourescent light in the sky, shaped like this light, but he complained that even this was not exact.

Just before 5:08 A.M., the light

This photo was taken at the exact position on Baldwin Road where McDonald first saw the UFO. The car is shown in the position of McDonald's car at the time of the sighting.



KEY TO MAP POSITIONS

——— Line gives estimated path of UFO.

1 -- UFO directly over McDonald's patrol car.

2 -- UFO at 5:00:38 A.M. when viewed by three policemen simultaneously.

A -- Where Roszak was parked when sighting began.

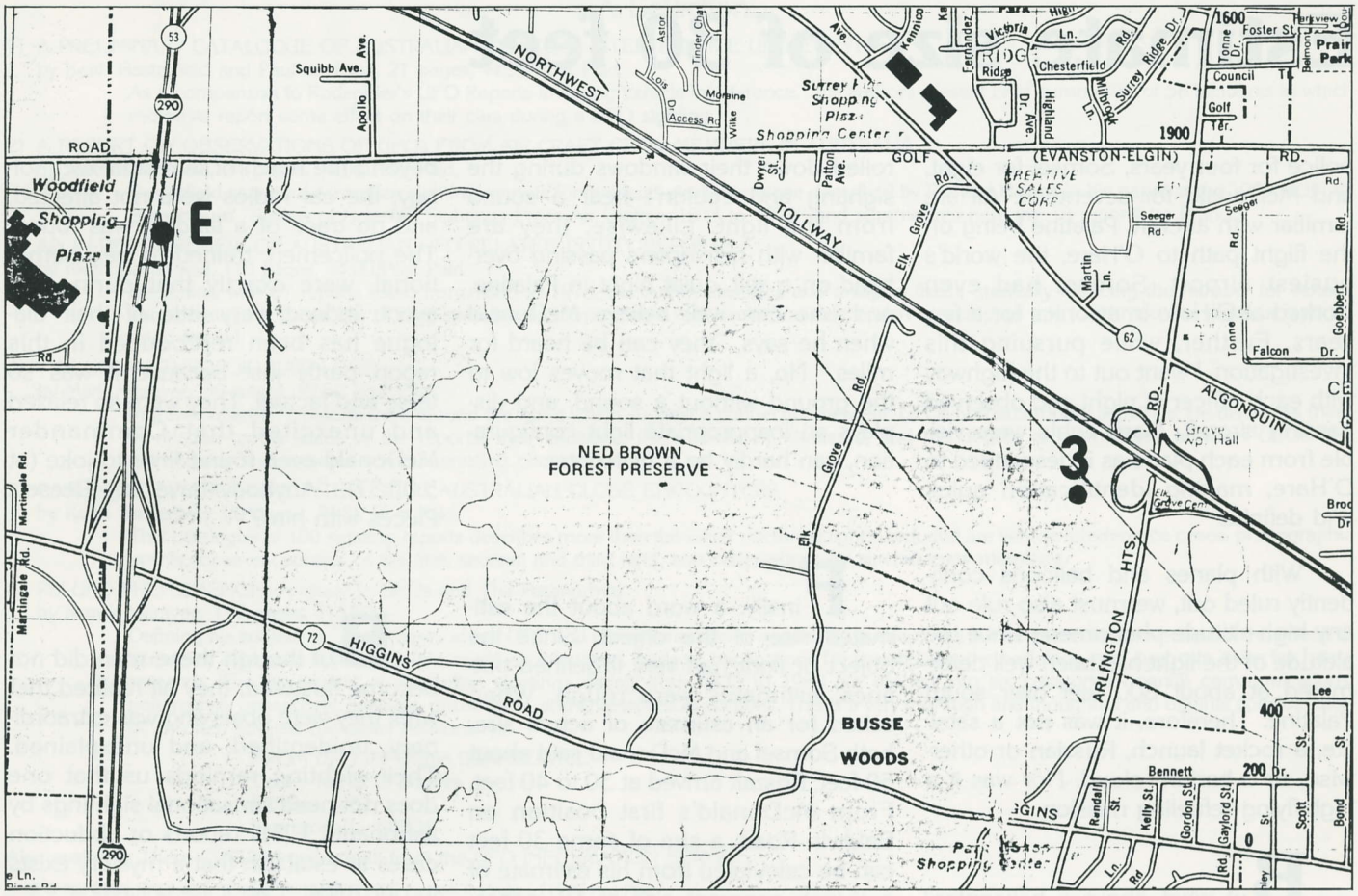
B -- Palatine police station.

C -- Point on Hicks Road where Somsel and Roszak first saw the UFO.

D -- McDonald's position when other officers were at 'C'.

E -- Approximate position of Roszak and Somsel on Route 53 as they watched the UFO descend.

3 -- Estimated spot where the light descended to the ground.



the UFO landed in a forest preserve

began slowly sinking toward the ground. The tape record indicates that at least 25 seconds elapsed during the descent. It disappeared behind the tree line of the large Busse Woods Forest Preserve (#3 on 2nd map); its distance then was a minimum of just over a mile. Triangulation indicated that it "landed" in the eastern half of the forest preserve. Accordingly, Mark Chesney and I conducted a thorough search of the area in late December, finding no evidence of any unusual disturbances, to our disappointment but not to our surprise.

Both Somsel and Roszak returned to headquarters shortly after the light disappeared. Though intrigued by the sighting, the light, whatever it was, was not in their jurisdiction. It had not committed a crime and had vanished. The total duration of the sighting had been 12½ minutes.

The weather that morning allowed essentially unrestricted observation. Visibility was 12 to 15 miles with no fog. At 5:00 A.M. the temperature was 24°F, with scattered, broken cloud cover at 2,500 feet, high clouds at 8,000 feet. This gave a possible maximum height of 2,500 feet for the light, as it never passed behind any clouds during the sighting. The wind was from the north at 8 m.p.h. ruling out a balloon as explanation, since the light was moving much faster than 8 m.p.h. and it also changed direction during flight.

DISCUSSION

All three witnesses independently ruled out the possiblity of a conventional aircraft as the cause of the sighting. Roszak has been with the Palatine

Estimate size of 30 feet

police for four years, Somsel for eight, and McDonald for seventeen. All are familiar with aircraft, Palatine being on the flight path to O'Hare, the world's busiest airport. Somsel had even worked at O'Hare in avionics for a few years. Further, while pursuing this investigation, I went out to the highway with each officer at night and observed passing aircraft. Many lights were visible from each plane as it descended to O'Hare, making identification quick and definite.

With planes and balloons confidently ruled out, we must also rule out any high-altitude phenomena since the altitude of the light has been well determined at about 800 feet over south Palatine. Therefore, it was not a satellite, a rocket launch, Russian or otherwise, or a barium cloud. Nor was it a high-flying refueling mission.

But what about a helicopter? Out of the question. For one thing, the policemen arranged to call O'Hare control tower while they were observing the light to verify whether or not it was on radar. Their dispatcher reported at 5:07:12 that "they (O'Hare) have no reports of any low-flying aircraft." Not completely satisfied, Somsel returned to the station and called O'Hare himself. He was again told that nothing had been coming in for a landing or had appeared on radar from the northwest during that time period (this is not unusual, even at the world's busiest airport. There is a lull between 3 A.M. and 5 A.M. when very few flights arrive or depart). The police also checked with the nearby Glenview Naval Air Station; again negative. All other airports near Palatine are small and were closed at that hour. Furthermore, both Roszak and McDonald rolled down their windows during the sighting and couldn't hear a sound from the light. Likewise, they are familiar with helicopters passing overhead on a still, quiet night in Palatine, and one can well believe McDonald when he says, "they can be heard for miles." No, a light that moves low to the ground without a sound, and displays an inappropriate light configuration, can hardly be a helicopter.

Finally, a word about the estimated size of the object. Since the object or light had very ill-defined outlines, estimates were rough. When asked for an estimate of actual size, both Somsel and McDonald said about 50 feet; Roszak arrived at 30 to 40 feet. From McDonald's first position on Baldwin Road, a size of some 30 feet can be calculated from his estimate of a ½-inch apparent size at 18 inches. Somsell made two estimates of apparent size, from which actual sizes of 18 and 60 feet could be calculated. We have long known that even skilled observers find it difficult to accurately estimate the angular size of lighted objects in the sky. Perhaps the best estimate of size is that from McDonald's original observation, when the light was at a range of only about 1,000 feet; this yields a size of some 30 feet, not out of line with the mean of the others. It is, further, a figure that often crops up in UFO literature.

Finally, then, how should we evaluate this extraordinary case? Nothing very startling occurred during the sighting; the light never did anything beyond the reach of terrestrial technology; the car radios were not affected, and no trace of a landing was found. The policemen, trained to be unemotional, were exactly that during the event; indeed, very little of their dialogue has been reproduced in this report partly just because it was so terse and factual. They were so relaxed and unexcited that Commander McDonald even found time to joke (at 5:05:37), "Anybody have any Reese's Pieces with him?"

But though these men did not become flustered, they all realized that what they were observing was extraordinary, unidentified, and unexplained. Their sighting reminds us that one does not need sensational sightings by astronauts, CE-III reports or abduction cases to establish that a mystery exists in our midst. Can it be solved?

FLASHBACK

It is intriguing to note that just under ten years ago, on May 10, 1973, another UFO was observed by four firemen and a dispatcher in the town of Elk Grove Village, just six miles south of Palatine. Initially it was observed on the southeastern corner of the Busse Woods Forest Preserve. This UFO, however, emitted a pulsating, droning noise and was even lower than the one in Palatine, less than 100 feet above the ground at one point. Since it is unusual to find reports of low-level UFOs in the Chicago area, it is particularly unusual to find two from almost the same spot, and both involving independent witnesses who were either firemen or policemen. Coincidence or...? □

REPORTS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

A Selection:

1) A PRELIMINARY CATALOGUE OF AUSTRALIAN VEHICLE—INTERFERENCE UFO EVENTS
by Keith Basterfield and Paul Jackson, 21 pages, $4.50 Post Paid.
As a comparison to Rodeghier's UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference,* the authors present brief summaries of 58 incidents in which motorists report some effect on their cars during a UFO sighting.

2) A REPORT ON OBSERVATIONS OF UFOs FROM AIR-CRAFT CREW MEMBERS IN AUSTRALIA
by Keith Basterfield, 24 pages, $4.00 Post Paid.
Basterfield searched Australian sighting records for incidents similar to those described by Richard Haines in his paper at the 1979 MUFON Symposium "Review of Selected Sightings From Air Crafts—1973 to 1978" and summarizes here the 18 reports he found.

3) AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN UFO-RELATED ENTITY REPORTS
by Keith Basterfield, 110 pages, $4.00 Post Paid.
Beginning with 67 reports listed from 1868 to 1978, the author classifies and analyzes them, gradually reducing the number for serious consideration to those few of high-strangeness from reliable reporters. (You might wish to compare this to Ahmad Jamaludin's report** listed below).

4) THE UFO-ANTHROPOID CATALOGUE
by Mark Moravec, 39 pages, $5.50 Post Paid.
Moravec utilizes 72 reports from around the world which suggest a connection between UFOs and anthropoid sightings. He discusses them in relation to the dates of the reports, their locations, the number of witnesses, and the degree of assimilation between UFOs and anthropoids and presents some interesting conclusions.

5) CATLOGUE OF THE MORE INTERESTING AUSTRALIAN CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
by Keith Basterfield, 29 pages, $4.50 Post Paid.
This catalogue of 100 sighting reports describes more than the usual nocturnal lights. Included are vehicle-interference cases, photographic events, close encounters of the first, second, and third kind, and observations by air-craft crew members.

6) PSI-UFO PHENOMENON: A Study in UFOs and The Paranormal
by Marck Moravec, 137 pages, $15.50;
Defining his subject as "those cases where UFO and paranormal events apparently overlap," the author presents an overview of the PSI-UFO accounts, discusses hypothesis that might explain them, explores implications for investigative methodology, and suggests areas for future research. The 88 reports of Australian sightings dating from 1838 to 1980 are divided into six categories: mental communications, poltergeists, apparitions, healings, ghost lights, and time-lapses-abductions. This is a very thorough and thoughtful and original consideration of an often ignored (possible) relationship.

FROM UFO INFORMATION SERVICE
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Also available; These CUFOS Publications from the UFO INFORMATION SERVICE.

* UFO REPORTS INVOLVING VEHICLE INTERFERENCE by Mark Rodeghier, $10.00 Post Paid.
** A SUMMARY OF UFOs AND RELATED EVENTS IN MALAYSIA, 1950-1980 by Ahman Jamaludin, $12.50 Post Paid.

More Australian reports are available from Arcturus Book Service which has reprinted all of them in this country. The address is 263 North Ballston Avenue, Scotia, New York 12302.

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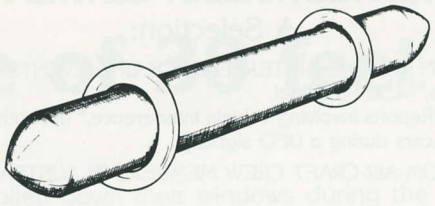
More Letters

Dear Dr. Hynek:

In response to your article entitled "Legion of the Bewildered Silent," which appeared in PROBE, I would like to report an experience which I had four years ago. I did not report it to any authority because (a) I was alone at the time of the sighting and (b) I am not crazy and (c) as a teacher, I would not dare.

This sighting occurred at 10:35 AM on September 1st, 1976 in a rural area of the foothills in northern Colorado. Livermore is approximately 21 miles up highway 287 north of Ft. Collins, Colorado. My mother's home is approximately 4 miles from the forks which continues as highway 287 or forks off toward Red Feather Lakes. The house is located about 2½ miles west of highway 287 on Larimer County Road 76H, a dirt road. The north fork of the Cache la Poudre River flows south just on the west side of her property line. A bridge crosses the river there and northwest of the bridge is a grove of old cottonwood trees.

On the morning of the sighting, my mother had gone into Ft. Collins with one of her friends. I was preparing to enroll in the University of Colorado to begin graduate work in sculpture and I was enjoying a little free time by walking my dog, Corkie, in a neighbor's field west of my mother's house on the west side of the river. The time is somewhat confusing because I normally walked him much earlier in the day.



As we returned, I heard many jet planes in the sky. This area has been used much by the Air Force from Cheyenne, Wyoming for military practice flights for years, so hearing a jet plane was not unusual. Consequently, I ignored them, but for some reason I looked up into the sky and saw a very large object (a drawing of which appears at the end of this letter), bright silver colored, making no sound of its own. It was flying slowly (had it been a car, its speed would not have been more than 50 mph) toward the south, toward Livermore Mountain, at an altitude of 200 to 250 feet, so low that I wondered how anything that large could remain airborne. It was probably at least 100 feet long (estimate based on comparison to my mother's house which is 50 feet long).

I watched it fly slowly toward Livermore Mountain, from a position just west of me and over my head. I could see it for several minutes and then lost interest in watching it. When I did look again, I didn't see it and assumed it could have flown down low and behind a hill beyond my vision.

The thing that has puzzled me so much was my reaction to it, as much as to seeing it. I felt like a little child, saying to myself in a childish voice, "that surely is a funny-looking airplane! It has no wings and no tail, not even any windows." I was not in the least bit frightened, although I was alone there with only my dog. There wasn't even anyone home when I did get back.

It was broad daylight and I do not drink or smoke. I am middle-aged and hardly a cuckoo. There could be no mistake that this was an unusual object. I have seen many, many planes in my lifetime, in the air and on the ground, and flown a few times, as well. It simply was not an airplane. My dog did not seem to react in a strange manner. I have had a feeling for some time, however, that even though I did look at my watch at the time and noted that it was 10:35, that I was resuming my walk after a delay. I don't know exactly how to describe the sensation except that I had the feeling that the UFO was taking off from behind me.

There it is and here is my drawing of it. I've never seen a picture of one just like it, and certainly had I been imagining one I would have tried for a more traditional saucer-shaped one.

Thanks for the opportunity to "unload." Description: silver (bright shiney) no visible seams, with rounded ends on a tube; large pipe-like thing about a quarter of the way in from each end. I kept feeling there were people inside telling me, "goodbye."

(Name on file) □

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